Citizen Science Projects (MOOC) 1.9

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MEL WOODS: Participating in citizen science project is so much more meaningful when you share it with others. Being able to speak to people and exchange ideas keeps motivation high and helps everyone to understand the data collected and how to use it. Citizen observatories are built around community-based environmental monitoring activities. The stronger the community, the better the outcomes for those participating and for science. Within the LandSense project, several tools have been created, like mobile applications, to make data collection possible by community members. Citizens and stakeholders can access these tools by the LandSense Engagement Platform and apply them in their local area.	
For example, City Oasis is an urban green space application and is used to collect objective information on how citizens feel about and use urban spaces. The app can be adapted very easily to other cities, so it's a scalable and flexible tool that can assist urban planning. The project also offers a campaigner tool that encourages others to plan and launch their own citizen science campaign by the LandSense Engagement Platform. The platform is great for connecting with a growing LandSense community and services and where participants can promote their own campaign to communities of similar interests.	
The MeetMe Michelin Citizen Observatory was started in Belgium by the Ground Truth 2.0 Project, a group of engaged citizens joined the citizen observatory together with local	

policymakers, the environmental administration, and environmental experts. This group decided to launch air quality campaigns to measure the spatial and temporal variation in air pollution levels throughout the city with a focus on the impact of road traffic. Volunteer citizens decided on sensing strategies for a diverse set of streets, which were exposed to varying levels of pollution. For each strategy, a group of volunteers were recruited to measure pollution levels. The volunteers were equipped with mobile air quality sensors and GPS to cycle along selected paths.	
A group of volunteers were trained to use the sensors and to handle data so that they could recruit new volunteers. Four campaigns, each one lasting two weeks during all four seasons have been organised so far-- all data process to aggregating maps for each season these have been published online jointly analysed and presented at workshops on air quality. One example from the Grow Observatory are grow places that connects community champions across Europe. These champions are already working with a network of community gardeners, local groups, community growers, and independent family farmers. Grow Places connects the community champions through online courses, educational resources, and science experiments and provides the materials and soil moisture sensors needed to participate.	
These are just some examples in how cities and observatories use community-based environmental monitoring. The key is that everybody comes together to discuss and agree on how information will be gathered. We will go into specifics on how this can be done in the following steps.	
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